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## Media Release

January 19, 2011

### **Biden calls on banks to examine military families' mortgages and foreclosures**

*Request comes after news that leading bank overcharged thousands of military families*

**Wilmington** – Attorney General Beau Biden is calling on mortgage banks to closely examine their mortgage and foreclosure practices related to military servicemembers after JP Morgan Chase (“Chase”) admitted this week that it overcharged several thousand military families for their mortgages. On Monday, Chase reported that 4,000 servicemembers may have been overcharged on their mortgages and that 14 families were improperly foreclosed upon. Under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (“SCRA”), mortgage rates are generally lowered to six percent and troops receive foreclosure protections. In a letter being sent today, Biden asks Bank of America, Citi, GMAC, Litton Loans, PNC and Wells Fargo, to examine their mortgage and foreclosure procedures and ensure they are operating within the SCRA.

“Servicemen and women in harm’s way need to focus on their mission and cannot afford to be distracted by banks not abiding by the law,” Biden stated. “I have seen firsthand the stress and difficulty our warriors face in managing their responsibilities on the home front while deployed overseas. We’re demanding that banks ensure that their practices and procedures comply with the law and that servicemembers receive the fair treatment that they undeniably deserve.”

In October, 2010, Biden called on six banks to stop foreclosure proceedings in Delaware and initiated a review of their foreclosure review and verification procedures after it was discovered that banks had initiated foreclosures without verifying the accuracy of mortgage documents. In addition, Biden’ office is helping to lead a coordinated nationwide effort by state Attorneys General to investigate banks’ foreclosure practices.

Delaware families worried about missing mortgage payments or losing their home to foreclosure are encouraged to attend next week’s housing workshops in Wilmington and Milford sponsored by the Attorney General’s Mortgage Fraud Task Force. The Task Force was established to help Delaware homeowners and reduce foreclosures through education about the foreclosure process, connecting homeowners with lenders and government programs, and taking action against foreclosure scams. Since April 2009, more than 750 consumers have attended 13 Task Force-sponsored workshops, and they have helped over 300 Delaware families avoid foreclosure. Learn more by visiting [attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/mortgageforeclosure](http://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/mortgageforeclosure) or call the Attorney General’s Foreclosure Hotline at 1-800-220-5424.

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